

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strike through~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claim 1 and ADD new claim 5 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~ANA~~ distribution device in a rice huller, wherein:
said rice huller ~~comprises~~includes a hulling section which hulls un-hulled rice as raw material, wind sorting section arranged underneath said hulling section, and a hulled rice distribution device disposed between said hulling section and wind sorting section,
said distribution device ~~comprises~~comprising:
~~ana~~ distribution gutter ~~which~~configured to receives hulled rice falling from said hulling section and in which a plurality of hulled rice falling-through holes are formed;
a downflow gutter ~~which that~~ is linked to ~~one of the~~ a first upper end edges of said distribution gutter and guides hulled rice from said hulling section to ~~thea~~ substantially central part of the distribution gutter in the lengthwise direction;
a screw ~~which that~~ is disposed inside said distribution gutter and conveys hulled rice having flowed into the distribution gutter in the lengthwise direction of the distribution gutter;
and
a falling rice control plate ~~which can~~configured to block and open at least some of said hulled rice falling-through holes formed in said distribution gutter, wherein:
a part of the hulled rice ~~which that~~ failed to fall through said hulled rice falling-through holes, out of the hulled rice ~~which that~~ has flowed into said distribution gutter, in the process of being conveyed by said screw, is caused to overflow ~~thea~~ second upper end edge of the distribution gutter on the side opposite the first upper end edge linked to said downflow gutter.

2. (Currently Amended) The hulled rice distribution device in the rice huller according to claim 1, wherein the second upper end edge of said distribution gutter which hulled rice is to overflow is so inclined as to increase in height in ~~thea~~ part substantially immediately underneath said hulling section and to become gradually lower with ~~thean~~ increase in distance from ~~that that the heightened~~ part in the lengthwise direction of the distribution gutter.

3. (Currently Amended) The hulled rice distribution device in the rice huller according to claim 2, wherein a recessed part is formed in the part substantially immediately underneath said hulling section at the second upper end edge of said distribution gutter which hulled rice is to overflow, and an overflowing rice control plate is disposed in a position corresponding to ~~this~~the recessed part so as to be shiftable between a state in which said recessed part is blocked and a state in which ~~its~~said recessed part is opened, ~~thereby controlling with this~~the overflowing rice control plate thereby controlling the quantity of hulled rice overflowing the distribution gutter through said recessed part.

4. (Currently Amended) The hulled rice distribution device in the rice huller according to claim 3, wherein said falling rice control plate and said overflowing rice control plate are fitted to a first shaft and a second shaft concentric therewith, ~~these~~the first and second shafts ~~are~~being rotatably supported independent of each other by a machine frame of the rice huller ~~independent of each other and, moreover,~~ the rotation of ~~these~~the first and second shafts ~~is enabled to be manipulated~~being capable of manipulation from outside the machine frame.

5. (New) A distribution device disposed between a hulling section and a wind sorting section in a rice huller, comprising:

a distribution gutter configured to receive hulled rice from the hulling section into a middle portion along a length of the distribution gutter, the distribution gutter including a plurality of through holes formed therein for passing the hulled rice to the wind sorting section;

a screw that is disposed inside the distribution gutter and that is configured to convey the hulled rice received in the distribution gutter along the entire length of the distribution gutter; and

a falling rice control plate configured to block and unblock at least a portion of the through holes formed in the distribution gutter.